



**Briefing Note: Meeting with the Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour Executive on 29 June 2021**

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	25 June 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1262860
<b>Drafter:</b>	Jill Ford	<b>DDI:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Pamela Cohen	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This briefing provides information to support your meeting with the Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour Lead School Principals' Executive (Executive) on Tuesday 29 June 2021 from 12.00-12.30 p.m. at your office.

**Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

☒ **Agree** / ☐ **Disagree**



Pamela Cohen  
Acting Associate Deputy Secretary  
**Sector Enablement and Support**

25 / 06 / 2021



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Associate Minister of Education**

26 / 06 / 2021

## Background

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1. In May 2021 we provided you with an Education Report: Renewal of the Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTLB) Service Funding Agreement from 2022 (METIS 1256639). This gave an overview of the RTLB service including work to improve cluster governance and management. It also covered recent practice improvements through the Learning Support Delivery Model and He Pikorua which is a shared practice framework for RTLB and Ministry learning support staff.
2. The report advised you that the current RTLB Funding Agreement between the Ministry and the 40 RTLB cluster Lead Schools is ending on December 2021 and outlined proposed priorities to explore for inclusion in the next agreement. These are listed in Annex 1.
3. Work with the Executive to discuss and agree on the new funding agreement is progressing well. Following our discussion with you about the priorities, we met the Executive on 25 May 2021 to seek their feedback. The Executive suggested some refinements but were generally supportive of including the proposed priorities.
4. A two-year term is proposed for the new agreement (2022-2023). We have developed a draft of the next funding agreement and this will be further discussed at the Executive meeting on 29 June, prior to their meeting with you.
5. In addition to your meeting with the RTLB Executive in June you have confirmed that you will address the RTLB Lead School Forum on 17 August 2021. We will provide you with a separate briefing and speaking notes for this event.
6. Another step in developing the new RTLB Funding Agreement is correspondence with each of the 40 Lead School Boards of Trustees. These letters were sent out on 24 June asking each Lead School Board to confirm their interest in continuing as Lead School. The letters also thanked the Board and principal for their significant contribution to the RTLB service and learning support.

## Key points to inform your conversation

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7. You have asked to meet with the RTLB Executive, and the group has welcomed this opportunity to meet with you. The meeting is an opportunity to emphasise the value of the RTLB service as a substantial part of the learning support workforce, providing specialist teachers learning and behaviour across the schooling network in years 0-10.
8. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the positive contribution made by the Executive to support improvements in RTLB leadership, governance and management and practice.
9. Following are some suggested topics that you might want to seek the views of the Executive on:
  - the changing needs of students and schools
  - RTLB service performance, strengths, and current challenges
  - what is working, good news stories and examples of innovation in the service
  - how the service is aligning and working with the Ministry learning support services
  - possible themes for your presentation to the Lead School Forum in August
  - opportunities to strengthen the leadership of Lead School Principals.

10. If of interest to you, you may want to ask the Executive if you can visit a cluster to discuss their on-the-ground service delivery and support for schools with a Cluster Manager and Lead School Principal.
11. For your information, some RTLB clusters have expressed concern about the recommendation in NZEI's Pūaotanga report to merge RTLB and Ministry Learning Support into a single service within the Education Service Agency. The Executive might raise this with you.
12. Our response to those expressing concern has been to note that this recommendation comes from the NZEI not the Ministry, and that the Ministry is currently in discussion with the Executive about the next Funding Agreement with Lead Schools.

### Information about the RTLB Lead School Executive

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13. The RTLB Executive is a representative group of RTLB Lead School Principals. They meet with Ministry representatives from national and regional offices termly to discuss RTLB related matters.
14. The Executive is elected by their peers at the annual RTLB National Lead School Forum. The current group includes four Lead School Principals and two experienced Cluster Managers who have been seconded by the Executive into the group to give greater voice to Cluster Managers. Annex 2 provides further information about the Executive members.
15. John Bangma has been the chair of the Executive for a number of years and works closely with the Ministry on the strategic direction and operation of the RTLB service.
16. Executive members:

#### Lead School Principals (elected by Lead School Principals)

- John Bangma (Chair) - Mairehau Primary School - Cluster 34
- Tony Hunter - Tahuna Normal Intermediate School - Cluster 39
- Michael Harrison - Motueka South School - Cluster 30
- Peter Brooks - Freyberg High School - Cluster 26.

#### Cluster Managers (seconded by the Executive)

- Sarah Grant - Gisborne Girls' High School - Cluster 21
- Roseanne Gibson - Royal Oak School - Cluster 8.

### Proactive Release

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17. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

### Annexes

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- Annex 1: Proposed priorities from Education Report (METIS1256639)  
Annex 2: RTLB Executive members

## Annex 1: Proposed priorities from Education Report (METIS 1256639)

The Education Report: Renewal of the Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour Service (RTLb) Funding Agreement from 2022 listed priorities being explored for inclusion in the next Funding Agreement as:

- Setting RTLb service expectations to implement government priorities – in particular, the National Education Learning Priorities (NELP), Ka Hikitia, the Action Plan for Pacific Education and the Learning Support Action Plan 2019-2025
- Continuing collaborative work with Ministry learning support teams to implement He Pikorua to support practice shifts for RTLb and Ministry staff, and strengthen the provision of flexible learning support within a tiered system of universal, targeted and individual support, within the LSDM
- Developing and implementing a common RTLb and Ministry outcomes framework with shared measurement tools, so that we have a more coherent picture of the impact of learning support service delivery for ākonga, families, whānau and schools
- Determining the RTLb service's role as specialist teachers in new initiatives to respond to students whose behaviour is challenging to others, as part of an integrated learning support system approach
- Sharing and spreading the expertise of RTLb who belong to Ngā Powhirinakitanga to develop Kaupapa Māori approaches to learning support in English and Māori medium settings
- Setting out the RTLb service's role in supporting the implementation and use of the standardised Learning Support Register (sLSR)
- Articulating RTLb's role in building system capability in inclusive practices and curriculum, and building teacher capability including the delivery of Incredible Years Teacher programmes
- Setting service expectations for RTLb support for ākonga transitioning into school, and from Year 10 to Year 11 when RTLb support ends, not just support in years 0-10
- Exploring how RTLb can support students who are at risk of disengaging including those who learn in Alternative Education settings.

## Annex 2: Information about the RTLB Lead School Executive members

### John Bangma

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Current chair of the Lead School RTLB Executive.

- 27 years of experience as a principal.
- Current Principal of Mairehau School in Christchurch.
- Lead School Principal for Cluster 34 which currently supports 60 schools and kura across Christchurch and employs 31 RTLB and one cluster manager.
- Also a member of the NZ Principals' Federation Executive and the Canterbury Primary Principals Executive.
- Long term First Time Principal mentor.
- Particular interests in the areas of Learning Support and Māori educational success and brings a strong commitment to collaborative and proactive approaches to support change in education.

### Peter Brooks

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Lead School principal member of the RTLB Executive.

- Current Principal of Freyberg High school in Palmerston North.
- Lead School Principal for Cluster 26 which currently supports 113 schools and kura across Manawatu and employs over 40 RTLB and one cluster manager. This is one of the largest clusters in the country.
- Also Lead School Principal of the Kāhui Ako and current chair of Central District Principals' Association.
- Member of the National Infrastructure group.

### Michael Harrison

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Lead School principal member of the RTLB Executive.

- 33 years of experience as a principal.
- Current Principal of Motueka South School (U4) in Nelson.
- Lead School Principal for Cluster 30 Nelson Bays which currently supports 52 schools and kura across Nelson and Golden Bay and employs 21 RTLB and one cluster manager.
- Has been the cluster Lead School Principal since the RTLB transformation in 2012.
- Previously seconded to the Ministry to support transformation and the development of seamless services.

### Tony Hunter

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Lead School principal member of the RTLB Executive.

- 30 years of experience as a principal in schools across Otago and Southland.
- Currently Principal of Tahuna Normal Intermediate School in Dunedin.
- Lead School Principal Cluster 39 which currently supports 118 schools and kura in the Coastal Otago region and employs 26 RTLB and one cluster manager.
- Life member and current member of the Otago Primary Principals Association.
- NZEI National Leadership Group/Principals Council.

## Sarah Grant

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Cluster manager member of the RTLB Executive.

- Cluster manager for Cluster 21 Potaka ki Mohaka, based at Gisborne Girls' High School.
- Cluster 21 supports 65 schools and kura across Gisborne, East Cape and Wairoa and employs 23 RTLB.
- Also Massey University Specialist Teaching Rōpu Kaitiaki, RTLB Cluster Manager representative.
- Locally takes an active role in the systems improvement work within Manaaki Tairāwhiti and promotes and supports the work of RTLB who make up Ngā Pouwhirinakitanga.
- Sarah has a PhD from the University of Waikato.

## Roseanne Gibson

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Cluster manager member of the RTLB Executive.

- Cluster manager for Cluster 8 Ngā Manu Āwhina, based at Royal Oak School.
- Cluster 8 supports 50 schools and kura in Auckland and employs 34 RTLB.
- Actively involved in the RTLB service since its inception including national work.
- Also a registered psychologist and counsellor with a strong focus on wellbeing, positive psychology, holistic and universal approaches.
- Cluster 8 has a focus on providing a range of events and workshops for a wide range of groups and their practice leaders have been key contributors to the development of He Pikorua.